

1956

BOROUGH OF PENRYN



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1956

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions in the Borough of Penryn in 1956.

Once again the year was a healthy one despite the floods and frost of the earlier months. These undoubtedly contributed to the high death rate among the older section of the population.

The great event of the year was the commencement of the new sewerage scheme whereby the Towns sewage will eventually be pumped to the sea outfall on Pennance Head. The decision to undertake this expensive but very necessary operation was a most courageous one on which all concerned are to be congratulated.

I welcome this opportunity of again thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year. My thanks too to Mr. Blackmore and staff for their loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) V. E. Whitman.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Except where otherwise stated the figures in brackets throughout the report are the comparable figures for 1955.

Area acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	721	
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4330	(4,270)
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1420	(1,389)
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£40601	(£22,690/10)
Product of penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£158	(£88/10)
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	390	(353)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	150	(355)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births

Males 45 (44)	Females 33 (53)	Total 78	(98)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor		0.95	(0.95)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn		16.9	(21.4)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales		15.6	(15.0)

Still Births

Males 0 (1)	Females 1 (1)	Total 1	(2)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, Penryn		12.7	(20.0)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales		23.0	(23.2)

Deaths

Males 24 (24)	Females 26 (25)	Total 50	(49)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor		1.14	(1.05)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn		12.7	(12.0)
Death rate per 1,000 population, England and Wales		11.7	(11.7)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Males 2 (2)	Females 0 (2)	Total 2	(4)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Penryn		25.6	(40.8)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales		23.8	(24.9)

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	3	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	1	-	-	-
Syphalitic disease	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelites	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	1	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	-	1	1
malignant neoplase, lung, bronchus	1	-	2	1	-
Malignant neoplase, breast	1	1	2	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	-	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	1	6	4	4	4
Leukaemia, aloukæ ia	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	11	4	9	11
Coronary disease	4	5	3	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2	-	1	3
Other heart disease	10	2	6	6	8
Other circulatory disease	-	3	6	2	4

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 86 (67) children under 5 were immunised against Diphtheria. 106 (48) booster doses were also given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years in Penryn was 315 (304) of these 217 (198) or 68.9% (65.1%) had been immunised. This figure is still on the low side.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	2	10	-	2	14
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	4	4

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	Now Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
45 - 64	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-

On the 31st December, there were 43 (40) respiratory and 11 (11) non-respiratory cases on the register.

Rate per 1,000 population Penryn.	12.5 (11.9)
Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall.	7.1 (6.7)

Up to 31st December 180 (143) children 53 (48) of them in contact with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. 127 (95) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit Penryn during 1956 but 52 Penryn school children were examined by the Mass Radiography Unit in Falmouth. No significant cases were discovered among these children.

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital Car Service.

These services are supplied by Falmouth.

3. Home Help Service.

During the year 12 (17) maternity and 53 (62) other cases were given help in their own homes.

There was some reduction in the number of cases helped during the year. This was due almost entirely to reluctance to pay the increased charges which the County Council has been forced to make.

4. After Care

Free extra nourishment was granted to 6(7) tubercular persons on the recommendation of the Chest Physician.

5. Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
General Cases	129	124	57	151	297
Nursing Visits	1,616	1,541	1,001	1,066	3,801
Midwifery cases	67	57	72	80	57
Midwifery visits	1,241	1,710	1,467	1,672	1,157
Ante-Natal visits	315	405	443	555	477
Home visits to child- ren under 5.	2,731	3,440	2,861	3,491	2,925
Home visits to old persons	293	486	1,015	360	1,460

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer reports:-

In addition to the District Nurse Midwife and the full time Health Visitor, Penryn has had, for a good deal of the year, the services of a general district nurse. This has meant that more general nursing cases have been given adequate care and at times help has been given to the hard pressed district Nurse/Midwives in Falmouth.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Measles</u>		<u>Pneumonia</u>		<u>Dysentery.</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0+	5	7	-	-	1	-
1-2	10	10	-	-	-	-
3-4	29	15	-	-	-	-
5-9	28	32	-	-	-	-
10-14	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	-	-	1	-	-
	<u>73</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>137</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	

There was no epidemic disease of any kind during the year.

Poliomyelitis

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year. Early in 1956 the Ministry of Health decided to offer vaccination against this disease to all children born in and between the years 1947 and 1954. In Penryn there were 665 children in this age group. Circulars were sent to the parents of all of them and 143 consents were received. Unfortunately a very small supply of vaccine was forthcoming and it was only possible to give 2 doses of vaccine to 11 children while 1 was given a single dose.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Influenza	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	4	-	3	1
Bronchitis	1	7	1	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	1	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	3	3	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	2	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	4	6	9	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	2	-	1	-
Suicide	1	1	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>42</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>50</u>

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
0+	2 (2)	- (2)	2 (4)
1 - 4	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5 - 14	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
15 - 24	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
25 - 44	3 (1)	2 (1)	5 (2)
45 - 64	2 (8)	7 (4)	9 (12)
65 - 74	5 (7)	4 (6)	9 (13)
75+	12 (6)	13 (11)	25 (17)
	<u>24 (24)</u>	<u>26 (25)</u>	<u>50 (49)</u>

It will be noted that exactly half the total number of deaths occurred over the age of 75 years. The Birth Rate is not so high as in 1955 but at 16.9 is much higher than the rate for the United Kingdom as a whole. The Death Rate, Infant Mortality Rate and Still birth Rate are about or slightly better than average.

In recent years attention has been directed to the Perinatal Death Rate which is calculated by adding together the deaths occurring immediately before, during and after birth, multiplying by 1,000 and dividing by the sum of the still and live births. The perinatal death rate is considered to be a very sensitive index of the sanitary conditions and the general health of a community. It is also to be expected that any adverse effects due to man made radiations will cause a rise in this index at an early stage.

As the figures for Penryn are themselves too small for statistical purposes I have compiled a table for the borough of Penryn, Truro and Falmouth and the Rural District of Truro over a period of 5 years and for purposes of comparison have included figures for the County of Cornwall and the United Kingdom.

	Mid 1956. Population	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Quin Quenium.
<u>FALMOUTH M.B.</u>	<u>16,500</u>						
a. Neonatal deaths		5	2	6	2	3	18
b. Still Births		9	7	10	7	7	40
c. Live Births		228	252	229	236	259	1204
d. Perinatal Death rate		59.1	34.7	66.9	37.0	37.6	46.6

	<u>Mid 1956.</u> <u>Population</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>Quin-</u> <u>Quenium</u>
<u>PENRYN M.B.</u>	4,330						
a. Neonatal deaths		2	1	2	4	0	9
b. Still Births		3	1	1	2	1	8
c. Live Births		81	72	89	98	65	405
d. Perinatal Death rate		59.5	27.4	33.3	60.0	15.2	41.2
<u>TRURO M.B.</u>	13,510						
a. Neonatal deaths		9	5	3	5	5	27
b. Still Births		10	7	4	5	4	30
c. Live Births		193	189	190	176	199	947
d. Perinatal Death rate		93.6	61.2	36.0	55.2	44.3	58.4
<u>TRURO R.D.</u>	26,690						
a. Neonatal deaths		8	8	3	6	4	29
b. Still Births		4	8	15	9	10	46
c. Live Births		355	343	355	322	374	1749
d. Perinatal Death rate		33.4	45.6	48.6	45.3	36.5	41.8
<u>HEALTH AREA</u>	61,030						
a. Neonatal deaths		24	16	14	17	12	83
b. Still Births		26	23	30	23	22	124
c. Live Births		857	856	863	832	897	4305
d. Perinatal Death rate		56.6	44.4	49.3	46.8	37.0	46.8
<u>CORNWALL</u>	338,760						
a. Neonatal deaths		106	98	60	93	89	446
b. Still Births		115	118	155	131	134	653
c. Live Births		4881	4785	4780	4422	4720	23588
d. Perinatal Death rate		44.2	44.1	43.6	49.2	45.9	45.3

ENGLAND AND WALES

Perinatal Death rate 40.6 40.0 40.9 40.1 39.4 40.2

$$= \frac{(a + b) 1000}{b + c}$$

It will be seen that the Penryn figures compare very favourably with the other authorities listed though they are not so good as those for the United Kingdom as a whole.

None of the figures gives any indication that up to the present there have been any adverse effects due to nuclear explosions and other man made radiations.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

1. Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinic 51 sessions were held at which there were 1,076 (1,208) attendances. The average was thus about 21 (24) per session.

<u>Dental Clinic</u>	<u>Expectant &</u> <u>Nursing Mothers</u>	<u>Pre-School</u> <u>Children</u>	<u>School</u> <u>Children</u>
Number inspected	18 (17)	22 (18)	979 (1194)
Number requiring treatment	18 (17)	22 (18)	574 (841)
Number treated	18 (17)	20 (18)	312 (279)
Number attendances	58 (76)	50 (41)	457 (455)
Number made dentally fit	11 (14)	25 (19)	257 (227)

BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

Public Health Inspector's Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Water Supply.

The whole of the Borough lies within the Statutory area of supply of the Falmouth Corporation Waterworks and the supply has been adequate during the year.

As a result of informal action regarding the condition of a service main, a new main was laid in the Mutton Row area during the year.

No major extensions of the water mains have been carried out in the Borough during the year.

Attention must be drawn of the gradual development of the Tremouth Dale and Packsaddle Hill areas where, due to the comparatively high cost of extending the water mains to that area, new developers are having to resort to providing their own wells and to sharing a supply with their neighbours.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Work on the maintenance of the existing sewers proceeded during the year and each of the minor stoppages which occurred once again emphasised the necessity for more manholes, for inspection and clearance, on the older lengths of sewer particularly those serving the North side of West Street and Lower Street.

New Disposal Scheme.

Work on the Contract for the new pumping scheme commenced on the 7th August, and by the end of the year the Contractors were well up to schedule with the exception of the work on the excavation of the pumping station which was continually interrupted by the higher tides prevailing at the time.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse continued to be collected weekly from all premises within the Borough and by arrangement with the Truro Rural District Council a few properties on the Southern boundary of Mylor Parish.

In spite of a slightly better supply of soil for covering purposes there were three out-breaks of fly nuisance previously reported upon. These three occurrences coincided with three spells of particularly hot weather. There is no doubt that the only solution to the problem is the provision of mechanised means to utilise the soil on the site for the regular covering of the refuse.

899 loads of refuse were collected and disposed of during the year as against 723 loads in 1955. The increase is accounted for partly by the occupation of 30 new houses and more particularly by the inability to sell salvage waste paper. Numerous attempts were made during the year to dispose of the paper baled and in store but none of the merchants were willing to receive it.

Public Conveniences.

The four public conveniences previously reported upon were maintained during the year.

Food (a) Slaughterhouses.

The slaughterhouse at Sunny Corner continued to function during the year when three part time slaughter men were employed.

The small number of matters dealt with by informal action were readily corrected by the occupier.

The general state of the premises was good and notifications of slaughtering have been regularly received during the year.

The number of carcasses inspected and dealt with are as follows:-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed	66	15	Nil	27	37
Number Inspected	64	15	Nil	27	36
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole Carcasses Condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Cattle 9 Sheep Pigs 3	(3 livers, 3 lungs) (2 lungs, 1 head)			
Total weight of whole Carcasses condemned					

(b) Other Food Stuffs.

During the year the following items of food have been condemned unfit for human consumption all of which were voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

Plaice	57 lbs
Canned Foods	
Meat	44 " 7 ozs.
Soup	15 $\frac{1}{8}$ "
Vegetables	7 " 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Fruit	3 " 11 "
Evaporated Milk	6 small tins.

(c) Food Premises.

(i) There are 61 premises in the Borough which sell food of various types as shown in the schedule below.

Under the classification of general provisions some 85% are small family run shops which include the sale of groceries, green groceries, confectionery, and ice cream in their business.

The larger grovery premises are equipped with refrigerated storage and in three cases frozen foods are also stocked.

All the butchers are equipped with modern refrigerated storage.

Two of the bakehouses are situated in a congested area and are of very old construction. Two bakehouses have cafes attached to their premises.

Included in the total figures are a retail and wholesale fish supplier, a wholesale food store and a local wholesale dairy which collects, pasteurises, and bottles milk.

Schedule of Food Premises.

General Provisions, including open foods	20	(11 selling ice cream)
Bakehouses	3	
Bakers and Confectioners (retail)	4	(1 selling ice cream 2 with cafes)
Sweetshops	7	
Dairy	1	selling ice cream
Fish & Chip	5	1 selling ice cream
Greengrocers	5	
Ice Cream	1	
Licensed Premises	9	1 serving meals
Fish (Retail & Wholesale)	1	
Wholesale Dairies	2	Pastourized and T.T. milk
" Food Supplier	1	
Butchers	6	

ii <u>Registered Food Premises.</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Ice Cream (packed only)	14	26
Fish & Chip	5	16
Butchers	6	10

iii Condemned food is disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse disposal site.

iv Food Hygiene Regulations.

There has been considerable improvement in the storage and handling of food and the provision of proper cleansing facilities for persons and utensils particularly the later in the nine licensed premises in the Borough.

Housing.

Total number of permanent dwellings in District	1398
Total number of permanent dwelling owned by Local Authority	488
Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation (As per Ministry Circular 55/54)	150

1 Number of houses in Clearance Areas for which -	
(a) Clearance Orders have been made	Nil
(b) Compulsory Purchase Order made	Nil
(c) Purchased by agreement (under negotiation)	12
Total	<u>12</u>
2 Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made	81
3 Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.	Nil
4 Number of houses demolished under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil
5 Number of houses demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
6 Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	Nil
7 Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	104
8 Number of houses closed as a result of an under- taking given by the owners of following the issue of Closing Orders	13
9 Number of unfit houses occupied under licence.	Nil

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1954 to 31st December, 1956.		Housing Programme for 1957	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes.
251	49	16	6

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or Buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
	FOR Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority		26	16	-	Nil	Nil
Private Enterprise		4	-	2	-	2

a	No. of temporary housing units occupied	Nil
b	No. of houses found overcrowded	21
c	No. of houses made fit during year	27
d	No. of inspections made during year	68
e	No. of Informal notices served	18
f	No of Informal Notices complied with	16

Houses required:-

1	To replace houses scheduled for demolition	104
2	To abate overcrowding	21
3	For other purposes	97

Total number of applications for Council Houses at the end of year 135

Total number of Council Houses sold during year. Nil.

Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949-54.

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:-

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected.	
	Aps.	No. of dwellings	Aps.	No. of dwellings	Aps.	No. of dwellings
31.7.49 31.12.55 During year	5	6	5	5	one withdrawn.	

NOTE - Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers 5

Average cost per dwelling approved:-

£409 0 0

Average rent fixed:-

13 7

Amount of grant payable by L.A. stated as %

47%

Milk Distributors.

There are 6 registered distributors who retail milk within the Borough 5 of which supply bottled pasteurised milk and the sixth continues the old-fashioned method of serving his customers from the can.

Rodent Control.

The systematic inspection and treatment of premises in the Borough has been continued during the year and once again no major infestation has been received.

This year considerable effort has been made to deal with the banks of the two streams and the disused mill leat which runs through the town and these extended treatments met with considerable success.

The town sewers have been treated twice during the year and the man-holes in which 'takes' were recorded were six as against seven in the previous year.

The infestation of private houses and business premises has been considerably reduced and has not called for any Statutory action during the year.

The regular proofing arrangements made by the occupiers of the premises on the waterfront have considerably reduced the infestation in the area.

The analysis of the year's work is as follows:-

Number of visits	2219
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Premises Treated.

Dwellings and gardens	167
Refuse Disposal Site	4
Business Premises	4
Corporation Property	2

River Banks Treated.

Brook Place, St. Thomas Street, Collego, The Prazo, Trossooth Lane and Chruch Road.

<u>Sowers Treated</u>	2
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I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K. R. BLACKMORE.

Borough Sanitary Inspector,

